1827
The
Covenant
of the
South
family

PAPERS
OF
SHAKERS
2 3
Conn.
Enfield,

The COVENANT of the South Family, In the United Society, (Commonly called Shakers,) in Enfield.

1827.

Introduction.

To all people to whom these presents shall come;

Know Ye,

That whereas we, the subscrib=
=ers of the town of Enfield, in the County of Hartford, and State of Conecticut, having, by the Grace of God, received faith in the testimony of Christ's Second Appearing, according to the Principles and Practice of the United Society, (commonly called Shakers) in said Enfield, and having become members of the Society aforesaid; and feeling a desire to unite together in the order and form of a Family and religious Fraternity in gospel relation, according to the light and revelation of God, made known to us in the gospel;- and, also, having not only a lawful right to enter into a religious compact; but feeling confirmed and established in our faith, that the aforesaid order is acceptable to God, and in accordance with the spirit of Christ; inasmuch as it enables us to be more useful to ourselves and each other in all things pertaining to our travel in the gospel,- to receive, and more perfectly to improve the manifold gifts of God, both spiritual and temporal; for the mutual protection, support, comfort and happiness of each other, as Brethren and Sisters in the gospel, than any other situation in our knowledge. Therefore, for the causes and purposes above mentioned, and for the better securing of our mutual rights and temporal interest

from the attacks of unlawful aggression, we have mutually, freely and voluntarily entered into covenant with each other, in manner and form following: viz. ______

The Covenant of the South Family &c.

Article 1st We covenant and agree, That we will receive and acknowledge our faithful and beloved Elders in the gospel, who have been, or may be, appointed to that office and trust by the Ministry, according to the first article of the covenant of the Church in Enfield aforesaid. And we solemnly pledge ourselves, in the presence of God and each other, that we will, as faithful Brethren and Sisters in Christ, conform and subject ourselves to the order, rules and regulations of the Family.

Art. 2nd We further covenant and agree to dedicate, devote and give up ourselves and services, together with all our temporal interest to God and the family, for the up-building of our respective Family, and other pious and charitable uses, to be under the care and direction of such Elders and Deacons or Trustees as have been, or hereafter may be appointed to the said offices, according to the first article of this covenant. Provided nevertheless, That those who have lawful heirs, shall not dedicate and devote such portion of their property as they shall think fit and proper to bestow on said heirs; but the use and improvement only shall be dedicated as aforesaid, until the heir or heirs shall become of lawful age.

______

Art. 3rd We further covenant and agree, That it shall be the special duty of the Deacons or trustees of the Family, appointed as aforesaid, to take the immediate charge and oversight of all and singular the property, estate, and interest dedicated, devoted and given up as aforesaid, together with all that may hereafter be so devoted and given up, which property, estate and interest shall constitute the joint interest of the Family, and shall be held as such, by the Deacons or Trustees in their official capacity. And it shall be the duty of the said Deacons or Trustees, to make all lawful defence for the protection and security of the joint interest and privileges of the Family; and, also, to appropriate, use and improve the joint interest of the Family, for the benefit of the Family, and such other pious and charitable uses as the Gospel may require. Provided always, That the management and disposal of the said interest and property by the said Deacons or Trustees shall be for the benefit, and in behalf of the whole Family, to whom the said Deacons or Trustees are, and shall be held accountable, and not for any personal or private use whatever. ——

Art. 4th We further covenant and agree, That the joint interest of the Family shall be held and possessed by the whole body jointly, as their natural and religious right; that is, all and every individual of, or belonging to the Family, shall enjoy equal rights and privileges, in the use of all things pertaining to the Family, according to their several needs and circumstances, without any difference being made on account of what any one has brought in, or may hereafter bring into the Family. — — — — — — —

And furthermore, That it shall be the duty of all the members, jointly and individually, to occupy and improve their time and talents to support and maintain the aforesaid joint interest of the Family, according to their several abilities and callings, as members in joint union, so that the manifold gifts of God may be jointly improved for the mutual benefit of the whole body. — — — — — — — —

Art. 5th We do, by this covenant, solemnly and conscienciously, jointly and individually, for ourselves, our heirs and assigns, promise and declare, in the presence of God and each other, and to all men, That we will never hereafter, neither directly nor indirectly, make nor require any account of any interest, property, labor, or service which has been, or may be devoted by us, or any of us, to the purposes aforesaid; nor bring any charge of debt or damage; nor hold any demand whatever, against the Family or Society: nor against any member thereof on account of any property or services devoted or consecrated to the aforesaid sacred and charitable uses or purposes. — — —

Art. 6th We further covenant and agree, That every person who shall, after the date of this covenant, be admitted into the Family, as a member thereof, in joint union, being of lawful age, shall previously, in the presence of at least two of the Deacons of the Family, read or hear read, distinctly, to his or her full understanding, this covenant, and shall be able, freely, voluntarily, and concientiously, to acquiesce in, and acknowledge his or her full approbation and acceptance of the same, in all its parts: Then he or she may

have full liberty to sign this covenant, and shall thence forward be entitled to all the benefits and privileges thereunto appertaining.

And the signature or signatures thus added shall be certified by the said Deacons in the following manner, viz, We A.B. and C.D. Deacons of the South Family at Enfield, Do certify that E.F. being of lawful age, was, on this day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and , duly admitted as a member of the Family, in joint union, according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth article of the Family Covenant, and voluntarily signed the said covenant in our presence.

A.B.
C.D. } Deacons.

Art 7th We further covenant and agree, That it shall be the duty of the Deacons or Trustees, to keep or cause to be kept in a Book or Books, provided for that purpose a true copy of this covenant, together with all other records and transactions of a Public nature, which may be necessary for the information and satisfaction of all concerned; and for the security of the joint interest of the Family, committed to their charge. — —

In confirmation of all the aforesaid statements, covenants, promises and articles of agreement, we have hereunto affixed our names and seals, in the presence of each other, beginning on this twenty fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven. — — — — —

Note As the names of the Elders & Trustees were not mentioned in the above covenant we will here insert them James Slate the first ruling Elder & Jonathan Terry & Wm Burnham Trustees

We Jonathan Terry and Wm. Burnham Trustees of the South Family of Enfield do certify that Joshua Bennet being of lawful age was on this twelfth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight duly admitted as a member of the Family in joint union according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth article of the Family covenant and voluntarily signed the said covenant in our presence.

Jonathan Terry }
Wm. Burnham, } Trustees

We Jonathan Terry and Wm. Burnham Trustees of the South Family of Enfield do certify that Manasseh Robbins, Ruth Streeter, Caroline Bradley, & Hepzibah Southwick, being of lawful age, were on this twentieth day of the Tenth month in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight, duly admitted as members of the Family in joint union according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth article of the Family Covenant and voluntarily signed the said Covenant in our presence.

Jonathan Terry }
Wm. Burnham } Trustees

We, Jonathan Terry and Wm. Burnham, Trustees of the South Family of Enfield, do certify that George Blanchard and Almira Burnham, being of lawful age, were, on this twenty fifth day of the fourth month, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine, duly admitted as members of the Family in joint union, according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth article of the

Family Covenant, and voluntarily signed the said Covenant in our presence

Jonathan Terry }
Wm Burnham } Trustees

We Jonathan Terry and Erastus Webster Trustees of the South Family of Enfield do certify that Sophia Wood being of lawful age was on this tenth day of July in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty duly admitted as a member of the Family in joint union according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth article of the Family covenant and voluntarily signed the said Covenant in our presence.

Jonathan Terry }
Erastus Webster } Trustees

We Jonathan Terry and Erastus Webster Trustees of the South Family of Enfield do certify that Eunice Burnham being of lawful age was on this Fourteenth day of April in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, duly admitted as a member of the Family in joint union according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth article of the Family Covenant and voluntarily ~~covenant~~ signed the said Covenant in our presence.

Jonathan Terry }
Erastus Webster } Trustees

We Jonathan Terry and Erastus Webster Trustees of the South Family of Enfield do certify that Jedidiah Dudley being of lawful age was on this nineteenth day of February in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three duly admitted as a member of the Family in joint union according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth article of the Family covenant and voluntarily signed the said covenant in our presence

Jonathan Terry }
Erastus Webster { Trustees }

We Jonathan Terry & Erastus Webster Trustees of the South Family of Enfield do Certify that Samuel & Elizabeth Frazar on the 11th Jan 1836 were duly admitted as members of the South Family according to the conditions Stipulated in the sixth article of the Family Covenant did voluntarily sign the same in our presence

Jonathan Terry }
{ Trustees }
Erastus Webster }

We Erastus Webster and Harvey Lyman Trustees of the South Family of Shakers in Enfield do certify that Harvey Lyman. Dyer Slack. Stephen Whiting. George Barney. Harvey S. Kellogg. Sarah Lyman Chloe Wardwell. Ruth Benton. Mary C. Wright. Eliza L. Blanchard. Sarah Ann Benton All being of lawful age was on this ninth day of April 1841 duly admited as members of the family aforsaid in joint union acording to the condition stipulated

in the sixtharticle of the Family covenent and voluntarify signed the said Covenent in our presence

Erastus Webster } Trustees
Harvey Lyman }

We Harvey Lyman & Erastus Webster Trustees of the South Family of Shakers in Enfield do certify that Edward M Lyman. Richard S Lyon. Amos Fletcher Abigail Bennett. Esther F Shaw. Caroline Blodgett Mary Ann. White. & Nancy Blanchard. All being of lawful age ~~was~~ on this seventeenth day of January 1851 duly admitted as members of the family aforesaid in joint union acording to the condition stipulated in the sixth article of the Family covinent and voluntarily signed the said Covinent in our presence

Harvey Lyman }
Erastus Webster } Trustees

We Harvey S. Kellogg & Dyer Slack Deacons of the South Family of Enfield, Do Certify that Daniel L. Orcutt and Newcomb Dean being of lawful age was on this day 30th of Dec, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Eight, duly admitted as a member of the Family in joint union, according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth Article of the Family Covenant, and voluntary signed the said Covenant in our presence,

Deacons { Harvey S. Kellogg
Dyer Slack

We Harvy S. Kellogg and Albert J Battles
Trustees of South ^[Family & Albert J Battles Trustee of the] Church Family of the
United Society of Shakers in Enfield Connecticut
do certify that Marion Patrick, Elizabeth
Copley, Rhoda Strobridge, Maria Witham and
Margaret Brooks All being of lawful age
was on this 18th day of fuly in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and eighty one
duly admitted as members of the family and signed
the Covenant in our presence

Harvey S Kellogg } Trustees
Albert J Battles }

We Albert J Battles and Marion Patric Trustees of the
South Family of Shakers in Enfield Conn. Do certify that
Thomas J Stroud being of lawful age was on this tenth day
of January one thousand Eight hundred and ninety one duly
admitted as a member of the family, and signed the covenant
in our presence

Albert J Battles } Trustees
Marion Patric }

Since James Slate came to the South Family to live which was in AD 1810 there has been the following amount of property brought in and devoted according to the second Article of the covenant of the above named Family

In 1816	Erastus Webster Devoted		$800, 00
1821	Hannah Davidson	do	148.. 00
1825	Mary Streeter	do	162. 00
1826	Harriot Knox	do	142. 00
1827	George Graves	do	43. 00
1827	Samuel & Elizabeth Cazar devoted in property & money		200.. 00
1827	Wm & Sally Burnham Devoted		600.. 00
1828	Hiram Stebbens	do.	40 00
1829	Wm & Sally Burnham Devoted in property & money		300.. 00
1830	Almira Burnham Devoted in Property & Money		200.. 00
1830	Wm & Sally Burnham Devoted		196.. 00

Received of Jonathan Terry in behalf of the South Family of Shakers in Enfield to my satisfaction the full amount of the above named property devoted by Almira Burnham deceased which is to be given to her son Albert Burnham, according to her mind, when he arives at lawful age.

Enfield May 16th 1834

Wm Burnham guardian
for sd. Albert Burnham

Attest Joshua Bennet.
Erastus Webster

Received to our full satisfaction of Jonathan Terry in behalf of the South Family of Shakers in Enfield Five hundred Dollars for the heirs of the undersigned viz. George & Eliza Burnham out of the specified sum above Devoted by Wm & Sally Burnham

Wm Burnham
Sally Burnham

Attest. Agnes Munsell.
Joshua Bennet.

Received of Jonathan Terry in behalf of the South Family of Shakers in Enfield the full amount of the above named property devoted by Wm. and Sally Burnham

August 27th 1834 Wm. Burnham

Erastus Webster
Joshua Bennet.

Recd. of Jonathan Terry in behalf of the South Family. In Money & Notes to my full satisfaction. It being in full for all demands which I hold against him or any of the Society of Shakers in Enfield Connecticut up to this date

August 27th 1834 Wm. Burnham
Erastus Webster
Asa Tiffany

A true Copy.

Wm. Burnham Recd. twohundred and four Dollars as a free Donation August 27th 1834

Jany. 11th 1836
Samuel and Elizabeth Thazar
Devoted in Money $632.. 00

1834	June 25	in	do	14.. 00
do	Aug. 16th	in	money	25.. 00

March 15th 1838
Loisa Blanchard Devoted in Money $50.. 00

In 1841 Hanah Davison Devoted in money $157,50
Eunice Harskell devoted in money $135.00
April 18th. 1842 Sarah Lyman devoted in property & money $3046.00
April 18th. 1842 Harvey Lyman devoled in property & money $3106.00
May 30th. 1842 Dyer Slack Devoted $767.86
in Note Secured by Mortgage Deed by
Silvan S Slack of Plainfield N. H.
Said Note & Mortgage Deed remaining in the
care, for the time being, of Caleb M. Dyer
at Enfield New Hampshire
1844 Eunice Herskell devoted in money $16.00
1845 April 16 Harvey S Kellogg devoted in money $199,00
1847 March 23d Omar Peas Devoted six hundred & sixteen
Dollars five hundred Hezekiah note one hundred & ten cattle six $616,00
1851 January 17th Edward M. Lyman Devoted in money $100.00
" " " Abigail Bennett Devoted in money $227.36
" " " Amos Fletcher Devoted in money $177.60
" " " Careoline Blodgett Devoted in money $56.00
1860 Nov 10th Clarissa Lyman Devoted in money $45.00
1865 Jan 2nd Eunice Haskell devoted in money $28.75
Dec. 30th 1868 Newcomb Dean devoted Thirteen
Hundred & thirty One Dollars ($1331.00) Money

A list of the quantity of land and the value of the same which has been purchased, Also of the buildings which has been erected Since James Slate came to live at the South Family. which was in AD 1810.

AD. 1811.	Built an addition to the Dwelling House	Amt.	$1000,00
1812	Built the Wodhouse	do	80,00
1813	Built an addition to the North Shop	Do	500,00
1814	Built the Cider-mill	Amount	300,00
1815	Built the Waggon House	Do	150,00
1816	Built the Office	Do	500,00
1816	Bought of John Parker 22 acres of Land		600,00
1818	Bought of Moses Meacham 5 Do	Amt.	400,00
1818	Built the Grain Barn Amounting to		250,00
1819	Built the Blacksmith Shop	Do	150,00
1820	Built the Long Barn	Do	500,00
1821	Bought of C. Jones & Hall 60 Acres of Land		1500,00
1822	Built the South Shop		1000,00
1818	Bought of Rufus & Enos Pease 43 acres of Land		700,00
1822	Repaired the West Family Dwelling House		100,00
1824	Bought of Timothy Olmsted 7 acres of land		100,00
1824	Bought of Matthew Thompson $30, worth land		30,00
1824	Bought of Boaz Terry 2 acres of land		150,00
1825	Carding Machine & Buildings		2000,00
1827	Bought of David & Elizabeth Sheldon 21 Acres		850,00
1828	Built Wood House & Horse Barn		450,00
1829	Bought of Wm Dixon 9¼ acres land		652,00
1829	Bought of Edward Pease 2½ acres land		180,00
1829	Built the Saw-mill		300,00
1829	Bought of Wm Wood 33 acres land		1650,00

A list of the Names of those members of this Covenant, who have removed to the other Family's

Manasseh Robbins removed to the First Family Feby 9th 1830

Esther Sessions removed to the East Family Feby 13th 1830 And her Daughter Malissa also

Abraham Malavory removed to the East Family Feby 16th 1830

Ruth Malavory removed to the East Family Feby 16th 1830

Jonathan Terry released from the South Family and by Appointment succeded Dea Nathan Tiffany as trustee of the Church Family 12 of Febuary 1840

A Record of the Appointments made in the Family since the date of the aforesaid Covenant.

Asa Tiffeny by appointment, succeeded Elder James Slade in office; as the first Elder, on the 17th of July 1829. - - - - -

Erastus Webster is authorized and appointed one of the Trustees according to the aforesaid Covenant June 14th 1830

Harvey Lyman is autherised and apointed one of the Trustees acording to the aforesaid Covenent April 9th 1841

Elisha Allen by apointment succeded Joshua Binnett ~~by~~ in office as the first Elder On the 29th of ~~July~~ 1838

Harvey Lyman is autherised & apointed second Elder Oct 17th 1850

Edward M. Lyman is autheresed & apointed one of the Deacons to live in the Office January 17th 1851

Harvey Lyman by Appointment succeded Elisha Allen as first Elder June 1st 1852 Aged 87

William White by Appointment removed from 2d Family to supply 2d Elder's place; for some time vacant May 11th 1853 Aged 87

John Wilcox by Appointment removed from 1st Fam. to supply the place of first Eld. left vacant by removal of Eld. Harvey to Ch. Fam. Sept. 29th. 1854. Aged 37

Richard S. Lyon by Appointment removed from West Fam. to supply trustees place in the Office made vacant by withdrawal of E. M. Lyman — Sept. 23rd. 1854

Harvey S. Kellogg is appointed assistant Trustee according to the provisions of this Covenant Aug 24 - 1855

Philip Burlingame is appointed according to the provisions of this covenant to be first Elder Aug. 19th 1857

Harvey Stoughton Kellogg is appointed according to the provisions of this Covenant to succeed Philip Burlingame (deceased) as first in the Eldership in the South Family, and Daniel Orcutt is appointed as his associate. Sept. 23rd 1866 — F. D.

In consequence of the decease of Harvey Stoughton Kellogg Albert J. Battles is appointed Trustee of the South Family March 27 1882

Robert Aiken is appointed trustee of the South Family June 6th 1883.

Marion Patric is appointed Trustee of the South Family
June 6th 1883
Anna Ervin is appointed Trustee of the South Family
June 6th 1883.
Thomas J. Stroud was appointed Trustee of the South Family
January 10th 1891

A list of the names of those members, of this Covenant, who have deceased.

Elder James Slate. Deceased June 28. 1829.
Aged 53. years

Sept.. 9th Almira Burnham Deceased aged 28 years 1830
May 20" 1832 Mercy Brown Deceased aged 83 "
Nov 26 1833 Agness Wardwell Deceas'd Æ. 45 "
April 1st 1835 Sara Ann Woodworth Deceas'd Æ 64 "
Jan 29th 1837 Hariot Knox Deceas'd E 37 "

An account of those who have departed from this Family

March	4th	1831	Nathan Burlingame
April	11	"	Wm. Robbins
Febr	20	"	Joseph Converse
July	18	"	Elexander Blanchard
August		"	Jemima Steele
Nov	1	"	Maria Payne
"	8	"	Samuel Streeter
"	12	"	Otis Seamans
April	23	1832	Douglass Seamans
May	8	"	Frances Hancocks

A list of the Names of those Persons who have been Members of this Covenant, and have withdrawn. ___

Lydia Kingsbury, withdrew herself from us, without making any complaint that she was misused, on March 29. 1828. ___

George Blanchard, withdrew himself from us without making any complaint that he was misused, on March 10th 1830. ___

Caroline Bradley withdrew herself from us without making any complaint that she was misused, on April 7th. 1830

Ruth Streeter withdrew from this family without rendering any complaint against it on the 13 of Febuary 1831.

Hiram Stebbens withdrew from this family without rendering any complaint against it on the 9th. of June 1831.

Emelia Steele withdrew from this family without rendering any complaint against it on the 19th of November 1831. _

SHAKER COLLECTION

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